

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-974
Application No. 10/019,694
Page 3

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A dehydrofluorination process to convert an aromatic carbamoyl fluoride to the corresponding isocyanate, comprising subjecting carbamoyl fluoride to a temperature at least equal to 80°C, in a solvent and at a temperature of at least 80°C, wherein said carbamoyl fluoride is in the dissolved or finely dispersed state in the solvent.
2. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reaction temperature is at most equal to 150°C.
3. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said solvent exhibits a boiling point of at least 100°C.
4. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a pressure such that, at the reaction temperature, the solvent is boiling.

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-974
Application No. 10/019,694
Page 4

5. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvent is miscible with hydrofluoric acid which does not react with the carbamoyl fluoride.

6. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carbamoyl fluoride is introduced into the solvent with hydrofluoric acid.

7. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ratio of the hydrofluoric acid to the carbamoyl fluoride (HF/carbamoyl fluoride) is at least equal to 2.

8. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the addition of the carbamoyl fluoride takes place gradually to a solvent heel brought to the chosen selected reaction temperature.

9. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the addition of the carbamoyl fluoride to the solvent is carried out at a rate such that, in the final 90% of the reaction duration taking place below 100°C, the molar ratio of hydrofluoric acid to isocyanate (HF acid/aromatic isocyanate) is always less than 0.5.

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-974
Application No. 10/019,694
Page 5

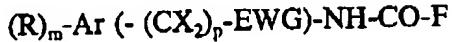
10. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbamoyl fluoride substrate comprises an aliphatic carbon, that is sP^3 hybridized hybridization, carrying bearing at least two fluorines.

11. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein said aliphatic carbon carrying bearing at least two fluorines is a benzyl carbon and is directly attached to an aromatic ring.

12. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein said aromatic ring is that carrying bearing the nitrogen of the carbamoyl functional group.

13. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture comprises less than 1%, with respect to the starting carbamoyl fluoride, expressed as moles, of impurities exhibiting a chlorine in the benzyl position.

14. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrate carbamoyl fluoride corresponds to the formula:



where:

- Ar is an aromatic residue;

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-974
Application No. 10/019,694
Page 6

- the X units, which are alike or different, represent a fluorine or a radical of formula C_nF_{2n+1} with n an integer at most equal to 5;
- p represents an integer at most equal to 2;
- EWG represents a hydrocarbonaceous group or an electron-withdrawing group, the optional functional groups of which are inert under the reaction conditions.

The total carbon number of $-(CX_2)_p-EWG$ is between 1 and 15;

- m is 0 or an integer from comprising 1 to 4;
- R represents alike or different radicals comprising halogens or hydrocarbonaceous radicals.

15. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solvents are selected from the group consisting of chlorobzenes, ~~advantageously~~ ~~monochloro-, dichloro- and trichlorobzenes.~~

16. (New) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the chlorobenzene is a monochlorobenzene, a dichlorobenzene or a trichlorobenzene.

17. (New) A dehydrofluorination process to convert an aromatic carbamoyl fluoride to the corresponding isocyanate, comprising subjecting carbamoyl fluoride to a temperature at least equal to 80°C, in a solvent and at a temperature of at least 80°C, wherein said carbamoyl fluoride is in the dissolved or finely dispersed state in the solvent,

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-974
Application No. 10/019,694
Page 7

and wherein the carbamoyl fluoride is introduced into the solvent with hydrofluoric acid in the form of a solution comprising anhydrous hydrofluoric acid.

18. (New) A dehydrofluorination process to convert an aromatic carbamoyl fluoride to the corresponding isocyanate, comprising subjecting carbamoyl fluoride to a temperature at least equal to 80°C, in a solvent and at a temperature of at least 80°C, wherein said carbamoyl fluoride is in the dissolved or finely dispersed state in the solvent, and wherein the total yield is at least about 70%.